

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUDGE CONNER BECOMES NEW CHIEF JUDGE IN MIDDLE
DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

United States District Judge Christopher C. Conner became the new Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania on September 1, 2013. Chief Judge Conner, who presides in Harrisburg, succeeds Judge Yvette Kane of Harrisburg, who served as Chief Judge for a seven year term which concluded August 31, 2013.

Chief Judge Conner is a graduate of Cornell University and the Dickinson School of Law. He commenced the private practice of law in 1982 with the Harrisburg law firm of Mette, Evans and Woodside and was elected to shareholder status in 1988. From 1995 - 2002 he served as Chair of the firm's Corporate and Commercial Litigation Department. Judge Conner has extensive trial and appellate litigation experience, including various assignments as lead counsel in class action litigation and complex corporate disputes.

Elected Vice President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association in 2001, Judge Conner was scheduled to become President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association in May 2003, but he resigned from PBA office after receiving his presidential nomination. On August 2, 2002, Judge Conner was sworn in and became the twentieth judge to serve on the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania since the Court's creation in 1901.

The Middle District of Pennsylvania serves thirty-three neighboring counties ranging from the state's northern tier to the Maryland border. Court business is conducted in Harrisburg, Scranton, Williamsport and Wilkes-Barre. Currently, there are six active federal judges and seven senior judges located throughout the district.

Chief Judge Conner is a past-Director of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, the Dauphin County Bar Association and a Life Fellow of the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation. He is a past-chair of the PBA Judicial Selection and Reform Committee and he received a Special Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association for his leadership in the campaign for reform of Pennsylvania's system of judicial discipline.

For the past 25 years, Judge Conner has been a frequent lecturer on continuing legal education topics. He also serves as an adjunct professor at the Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University.

Chief Judges of the United States Courts serve as the chief presiding officer for the court and have a leadership role in court management and stewardship. The chief judges' responsibilities extend beyond those areas specifically assigned by statute. The chief judge is responsible for seeing that the court is administered effectively and efficiently and in compliance with statutes, Judicial Conference and circuit judicial council policies and Administrative Office regulations.

By operation of federal law, the district court's chief judge position is assigned on the basis of seniority. Chief judges serve for seven years or until the age of 70, whichever comes sooner.

For information about the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, contact Mary E. D'Andrea, Clerk of Court, William J. Nealon Federal Building and United States Courthouse, 235 North Washington Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18501, telephone number (570) 207-5680.